

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /152 W

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R 041053Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5709

UNCLAS SEOUL 5810

E.O. 11652: N/AO

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJ: ROK PRESS REACTION TO REPORTED CONGRESSIONAL
TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA

1. ROK PRESS HAS RUN FRONT PAGE STORIES ON REPORT THAT SFRC PLANS TO SEND STAFF MEMBERS TO NORTH KOREA AND ON DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S DENIAL OF ANY U.S. -NORTH KOREAN CONTACTS. PAPERS STRESSED THAT SPOKESMAN MADE CLEAR THAT SOUTH-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS SHOULD BE SETTLED BEFORE U.S. CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. EDITORIALS SEPT. 4 STRESSED SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ROK REGARDS ANY POSSIBILITY OF CONTACT BETWEEN U.S. AND NORTH KOREA. TONGA ILBO, GIVING SOME CREDENCE TO REPORT REGARDING SENATE STAFFERS, SAID "WE DO NOT BELIEVE U.S. WOULD PURSUE DETENTE WITH COMMUNISTS AT THE COST OF RELATIONS WITH ITS ALLIES." EDITORIAL POINTED OUT THAT IF U.S. TRIES "HASTILY" TO HAVE CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA WHILE SOUTH-NORTH RELATIONS STILL UNCERTAIN AND ROK-COMMUNIST RELATIONS NON-EXISTENT, DIPLOMATIC DISEQUILIBRIUM WOULD RESULT. PAPER URGED U.S. TO DEVOTE EFFORTS TO GET MOSCOW AND PEKING TO OPEN DOORS TO ROK AND URGED U.S. TO TAKE
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SAME APPROACH TO KOREA AS IT DID IN CASE OF TWO

GERMANIES.

3. OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN WARNED THAT IT WOULD BE
GRAVE MISTAKE TO REGARD KIM IL-SONG IN SAME TERMS
AS OTHER COMMUNIST LEADERS. EDITORIAL REMINDED
READERS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF U. S. FORCES FROM KOREA
LED TO KOREAN WAR.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DETENTE, CODELS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL05810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740245-0869
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740975/aaaaculw.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK PRESS REACTION TO REPORTED CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005